GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
MINORITY AFFAIRS
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:1970
ANSWERED ON:11.08.2011
ECONOMIC CONDITION OF MINORITIES
Dashmunsi Deepa

Will the Minister of MINORITY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government proposes to conduct a survey to identify the other minorities including muslims living below the poverty line in every State especially in West Bengal;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the schemes formulated by the Government to improve the economic condition of the minorities including Muslims;

(d) the funds allocated for the said schemes during each of the last three years and the current year, State-wise; and

(e) the role of the Union Government and State Governments in implementation and monitoring of the said schemes?

Answer

MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF MINORITY AFFAIRS (SHRI VINCENT H. PALA)

(a): Yes Madam.

(b): The Ministry of Minority Affairs does not conduct any survey of minorities including Muslims living below the poverty line. However, the Government in May, 2011 has approved the methodology and the implementation modalities proposed by the Ministry of Rural Development for the Below Poverty Line (BPL) survey relating to Census 2011 in rural areas and ordered that the proposed BPL Census be completed by December, 2011. The Ministry of Rural Development has informed the Ministry of Minority Affairs that in the questionnaire drafted for the Census, there is a provision to capture information/data pertaining to religion. The Planning Commission has in June 2011 forwarded to the Ministry of Minority Affairs the Interim Report of the Expert Group to recommend the detailed methodology for identification of families living Below Poverty Line in urban areas. In the draft questionnaire of the Expert Group, a column for religion of the minorities is there.

(c): National Minorities Development and Finance Corporation (NMDFC) extends loans to persons belonging to minority communities living below double the poverty line, for undertaking self employment and income generating activities. The term Loans are provided by NMDFC through the State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) nominated by the respective State Governments. NMDFC provides Micro-credit to the members of Self Help Groups (SHGs) through Non Governmental Organizations (NGOs) as well as SCAs. NMDFC also extends educational loans and supports promotional schemes like Vocational Training, Marketing Support and Mahila Samridhi Yojana through the SCAs as well as NGOs.

(d): A statement showing the total funds disbursed during the last three years under term loan and micro finance and the current financial year, State −wise is at Annexure-I.

(e): The State Channelising Agencies (SCAs) of NMDFC which implement the schemes of NMDFC operate under the administrative control of the respective State Governments and are subject to monitoring by the State Governments especially because the State Governments contribute to the equity share capital of NMDFC. The physical and financial targets for the NMDFC schemes are laid down in a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) signed between the Central Government and NMDFC and the progress of achievements of the company are monitored through quarterly review meetings by the Ministry of Minority Affairs.